

March of Dimes for Babies Walk

By Priya Shewaramani



On April 30, 2016, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health team, joined by more than twenty thousand participants, kicked off the March of Dimes' annual March for Babies walk, the nation's longest-running walk. Walkers started the three-mile journey from the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park passing the L.A. Coliseum, before making their way up to Figueroa Boulevard.

Attendees from LACDMH included Dr. Robin Kay and Maria Ponce.

Maria Ponce from the Financial Services Bureau (FSB) has been supporting and sponsoring the March of Dimes' annual March for Babies walk for over ten years. Maria Ponce is very passionate about this cause. She wants to help fight against premature birth by raising funds and preventions to keep it from happening.

2016 March for Babies Online Donations Rankings*

DEPARTMENT	ONLINE DONATIONS
Internal Services	\$17,109.00
Public Social Services	\$9,360.00
Public Works	\$10,590.00
Auditor-Controller	\$8,757.00

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DEPARTMENT	ONLINE DONATIONS
Children & Family Services	\$7,164.00
Public Defender	\$3,113.00
<i>Mental Health</i>	<i>\$2,252.00</i>
Child Support Services	\$2,320.00

*For departments that raised over \$2,000 in online donations as of 5/5/2016.



You can still help raise awareness, money and support to make a true difference for babies!

A simple and quick but effective way to continue supporting the lifesaving work of the March of Dimes is by making an [online donation](#), which can be done with a credit/debit card or PayPal. The deadline to make a 100% tax-deductible donation is June 30, 2016.

Click Here To Make A
Tax-Deductible Donation
Thank You!

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You can also donate by sending a check or money order payable to “March of Dimes”, via County mail to:

Department of Mental Health
Administrative Support Bureau, Workplace Programs
Attention: Priya Shewaramani
550 S. Vermont Ave., 2nd Floor,
Los Angeles, CA 90020

With your support, we can give help to the hundreds of thousands of babies born prematurely now and bring hope for the millions more yet to come!

March for Babies is March of Dimes largest fundraiser. Each year nearly 4,000,000 babies are born in the United States and March of Dimes touches each one of them. March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Premature birth is the #1 killer of babies in the United States. In the U.S. one in ten babies are born too soon. Babies who survive an early birth may have lifelong health problems such as cerebral palsy, vision and hearing loss, and learning disabilities. One day, all babies will be born healthy – but until then we need to raise funds for community programs, advocacy, research, and education.

The purpose of the March of Dimes walk is to help more mothers have healthy pregnancies, support families with infants in neonatal intensive care units, and fund research to fight premature births and birth defects. Funds raised through March for Babies support the mission to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

Join this year’s Los Angeles March for Babies Chair, Dan Beckerman, President and CEO of AEG at March of Dimes March for Babies® walk in Exposition Park along with NBC4 Southern California’s “Today in LA” morning news team – Meteorologist Crystal Egger, Co-Anchor Daniella Guzman, Co-Anchor Whit Johnson, Traffic Anchor Holly Hannula – who will host the event and kick off the walk.